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August 19, 2014

[HSZC.org](http://HSZC.org)

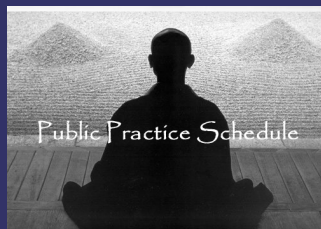
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Public Practice Schedule

Monday

## Sangha e-Newsletter 2014



*The Buddha said,*

*"Subhuti if any bodhisattva should thus claim 'I shall bring about the transformation of a world', such a claim would be untrue. And how so? The transformation of a world, Subhuti. 'the transformation of a world' is said by the Tathagata to be no transformation. Thus it is called the 'transformation of a world.' "*

When bodhisattvas realize the forbearance of birthlessness, the worlds in which they stand and walk are forever altered as a result of their attainment. Thus did Shakyamuni illuminate this realm within which we hear and practice the Dharma, while Amita did the same for the buddha realm of the west and Akshobya did so for the east. As bodhisattvas and buddhas create realms suited to the beings they have vowed to liberate, they also manifest works aimed at saving those beings. Such works, however do not necessarily transform the material environment but rather affect the spiritual environment of the realms in which they liberate beings. Still, since nothing arises, nothing can be transformed. Thus, the transformation of a world is no transformation. And thus

7:00 am Zazen  
7:40 am Morning Chanting Service

6:00 pm Zazen  
6:40 pm Evening Chanting Service

### Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen  
6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)  
6:50 am Zazen  
7:20 am Chanting Service  
7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen  
6:40 pm Chanting Service  
Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

### Saturday

6:30 am Zazen  
7:10 am Chanting Service  
7:25 am Soji  
8:30 am Drop-in instruction  
9:25 am Zazen  
10:15 am Dharma Talk  
11:00 am Refreshments/Social



bodhisattvas are not attached to their transformation of a world.

The Sanskrit here is *kshetra-vyuha* (transformation of a world). While the Chinese render *vyuha* as *chuang-yu* (adornment) or *ch'ing-ching* (purification), the emphasis here is not on the elimination of impurity from the world we perceive with our senses, but on its transformation. The usual meaning of the

word *vyuha* is "manifestation" or "arrangement." But what is manifested or arranged is a world transformed by the realization of enlightenment and the teaching of enlightenment. Thus bodhisattvas create the worlds out of their bodies of merit...

[The Diamond Sutra, Text & Commentaries](#)  
[TR from Sanskrit and Chinese by Red Pine](#)



weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!  
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen

11:00 am garden socializing



HSZC / Valley Stream Practice week @ [Tassajara](#): Tendo - Chris, Sandra & Shogen - Tom Hawkins proceed over the stream cautiously while contemplating the great matter of life & life with a wet and a sore something result if they make a misstep...

- Photo: Keido - Joseph



## Upcoming Events:

**Dharma Talks** - [Rev. Myō Lahey](#) - Aug 23, Sept 6, 27, Oct 4 @10:15am

**Guest Speaker Saturdays @10:15am** - August 30 [Tokuden Shinki, Mark Lancaster](#); October 11 [Laura Burges](#); November 1 [Jisan, Tova Green](#); November 29 [Anshi Daigi, Zachary Smith](#), December 13 [Kokyo Henkel](#), December 27 [Tokuden Shinki, Mark Lancaster](#)

**Full Moon Ceremony** - Saturday, September 6th @ 11am - the Full Corn or Full Harvest Moon.

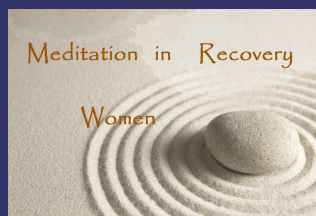
**Winter Study Period** - is planned to kick off around Sejiki (End of October) and run through Rohatsu and the Winter Light 5 day retreat (Early December) -- similar to a practice period --

**Sangha Council** - TBD (occurred last Aug 16)



weekly meditation group for men  
& women in recovery from  
addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm



(Women only)  
monthly meditation group for  
women in recovery from addiction.

First Thurs, 7:15 pm -8:45 pm

**Founder's Memorial** - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

**Study Hour** - Thursdays @7:30pm: the Vimalakīrti Sūtra, also called Vimalakīrtinirdeśa Sūtra. There are multiple translations, we focus a bit on the Dr Robert Thurman version, but welcome any version to compare the translations. We can share books for anyone who wants to join in, or feel free to purchase a copy and join us (many are very low cost online). Check our [twitter page](#) for any changes in schedule. *Please note! No Study Hour Sept 11th or 18th!*

### Closure & Schedule Changes coming up!

No Morning Zazen - **Monday, August 25th**

HSZC Closed - **Monday, September 1st - Labor Day Holiday**

No Study Hour - **September 11 & 18th**

Rev Myo will be out of town - **September 8th - 22nd**

**Next Board of Directors' Meeting** - Second Wednesdays of the month  
September 10 @ 7:30pm You're welcome to attend & observe.

### Words From Our Abbot: Rev Myō Lahey

...People are having to naturally also manifest patience in the face of the peculiar, slippery qualities of Ch'an/Zen teaching that emerge in these tales we are going through(study hour), because they don't immediately for most people, show their relevance to our actual body-mind, to our actual life. Again because that's not immediately there people tend to become frustrated with it. However if they have that spirit of repetition and are willing to return to that place of repetition over and over again then the hard shell of these teaching will break open and the sweetness that is there is available for use.

So Dongshan (Liangjie), you know, spent we don't know how long with his teacher Yunyan (Tansheng) and it's not clear how successful Dongshan was with his own practice of patience, he seemed to have been somewhat a hasty fellow. In fact he decided he was going to depart from his teacher before they had truly completed their business with one another. And so he basically just announced he was leaving and had this very famous encounter where Dongshan comes to take his leave and as I read it anyway; *and by the way one of the great things about these stories is you get to dramatize them as you wish because the dramatic details are almost never present.* So I

always imagine that Yunyan the teacher was maybe not surprised but a little taken back when Dongshan says “well I’m leaving” and so he asks him “he says, well, um, where you gonna go?” and Dongshan says, “well I don’t know yet” and Yunyan says “mmm, you’re not going to hang out in Hunan Province are you?” And Dongshan says “no”. And Yunyan says, “well you’re not gonna go back to your family are ya?” And Dongshan says “no”. And so Yunyan says to him after they were quiet quite a while “you know, if you leave it will be hard for us to meet again” and Dongshan says “HA it will be hard for us **not** to meet again!”. *We’ve been talking about this in study session that Dongshan is kind of a smart a\*\**. So he’s talking like he’s got the truth, man, but he doesn’t. So he says stuff like “I’ll meet you everywhere Teacher” even though it’s basically bull sh\*\*, it’s posture on his part and right before he leaves I think he’s feeling a little like something significant is happening. He is leaving his teacher and so they have another short visit and this time he’s rather subdued. He asks Yunyan “in times to come, if people ask me to characterize you, how should I do that?” and Yunyan is again quiet for a long time and he says “just this person”.

So this is basically the teaching I feel my consciousness impels me to draw our attention to again and again. “Just this person” is the heart and soul of Zen or the Dharma if you will. At that moment you know Dongshan’s practice was still maturing and because of perhaps lingering impatience he didn’t really get it, in fact the story says “Dongshan is lost in thought pondering the meaning” even though the the meaning is all there on the surface, right there.

So when I present this teaching, I hope that people will not be put off, not be dismayed or discouraged or “not that again” or “I’m sick of this I think I’ll try Pure Land” or “maybe the Catholics are having a picnic today or something. Just not this stuff again please!” It’s very difficult not to, you just can’t control that...

[HSZC talk August 28, 2004](#)



There will be some adjustments to our space for use by our hospice family, Maitri Hospice, for training in October. Please just be aware that we may host some events in alternative parts of HSZC’s property as a result and are thrilled to have them use some of our space to carry on training for the work once part of Hartford



## Street Zen Center both in current property and housed at the property next door.

### HSZC Sangha Member



...I want to make you think about certain political matters --- a praise-worthy objective, no? But I also want to amuse and entertain you, and more. In what I write I would like you to be able to feel pleasure, even joy. I don't want to give up on either goal, though only one of them is concerned with power. Isn't it possible to think about power in new ways? Why not suppose that as comradeship and equality get to know each other, they naturally become friends --- lovers even. And if --- as you must --- you consider such problems in your own life, you must soon begin to seriously ask yourself, how is it possible to make a truly human social life for the first time?

Awkwardly, our writerly alternatives are necessarily utopian; they can only be charted negatively as the kinds of language we use. Though it certainly could be worse, our situation --- to be sure! --- isn't the best of all possible worlds. And no amount of tinkering can change a basic fact --- to write is not the same as to act, nor will be in our foreseeable futures. Writings can even be obstacles to future developments; one can easily think of the regressive, as well as imaginative, side of language in its past behaviors. Yet if a person were to ask me, I would always claim there are reasons enough to hope, if we only see what is actually happening around us. Why not look at the kinds of language that articulate goals of a community?...

### Bruce Boone, Century of Clouds

We are thrilled to announce that [Hartford Street Zen Center](#) has been selected as a beneficiary of [The Castro Street Fair 2014](#). Please mark your calendars for [Sunday 5 October](#)! **WE ARE IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS!**

As a beneficiary we get paid a percentage of the total donations received by the fair for every hour that every person volunteers at the Fair. The online registration went live in July. We can have up to 50 volunteers -- plenty of opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbors. The funds raised will go toward repairing/maintenance of the building! [Please join in a fun day of FUN\\*draising for Hartford Street Zen Center!](#)

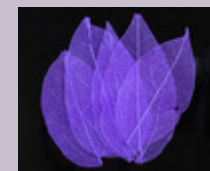
Looking forward to a great [Castro Street Fair 2014](#) with you!



Photo by Jen Birkette from her recent Nepal trip

### WINTER STUDY PERIOD

This winter we will have a study period. This event is similar to a [practice period](#) and plans to kick off after Sejiki (End of October, start of November) and run through Rohatsu and the Winter Light 5 day retreat (start of December).



Because we are primarily a lay sangha (community) and organization, attendance to the full practice period schedule is not an option for most, we will take the practice period model and make some adjustments.

We ask individuals offer to commit to a routine they can uphold. We would like as we get closer to the start of this period, to know what you can join us for and encourage all to participate. Some of the study period require attendance planning. Please inform us as early as you can before the period begins. A deadline will be later communicated. We look forward to concentrated practice opportunity with you!

### Other Holidays or LGBTQ! Events:

[Labor Day - September 1](#)

[Grandparent's Day - September 7](#)

[International Literacy day - September 8](#)

[Moon Festival in Asia - September 8](#)

[Patriot Day - September 11](#)

[Constitution Day - September 17](#)

[International Day of Peace - September 21](#)

[Autumn Equinox - September 22](#)

[Mabon \(Wiccan/Pagan\) - September 22](#)

[Navratri \(Hindu\) - September 25](#)

[Rosh Hashanah \(Jewish new year\) - September 25](#)

[Additional LGBTQI Events](#) Or [found here](#)

Seeking a **LGBTQI, Buddhist** space for your wedding? HSZC & Abbot Rev. Myō Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myō can perform weddings! Please email [hszc108@yahoo.com](mailto:hszc108@yahoo.com), call us, or a better way yet is to stop in & discuss



during our publicly open hours.

Abbot, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



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Please submit stories, reflections, personal news, artwork & photography for future newsletters to

KeiDo at [tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com](mailto:tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com)

May this newsletter find you well & equanimous! \_\_/|\\_\_



